

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/002,434

Examiner

George Eng

Applicant(s)

LEMIEUX ET AL.

Art Unit

2643

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8/25/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4,6-13,15-19 and 21.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 26 October 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

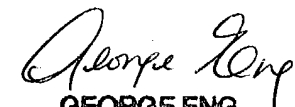
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


GEORGE ENG
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. Claims 1-4, 6-13, 15-19 and 21 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant's invention is drawn to a method and system providing a simplified user interface for allowing visually configuration of a video call with graphical representations of video devices (i.e., the user interface communicating with a video network platform to validate video call configurations and schedule selected video devices so that the user interface ensures that the video call configurations do not include invalid actions, thereby prohibiting the drawings of a directed graph arrow between a first graphical representation of a first video device and a second graphical representation of a second video device unless the video call between the first and second video devices is a valid action).

Applicant's independent claims 1 and 19 each recite, *inter alia*, a user interface for visually configuration a video call with a structure as defined in the specification (page 9-14) including a video call configuration window, and a directed graph relating the icons to represent the configuration of the video devices in the video call, wherein the video call configuration window is operable to allow a user to draw a directed graph between icons that represent compatible video devices in a valid video call configuration and to prohibit a user to draw a directed graph between icons that represent an invalid video call configuration. Applicant's independent claims 1 and 19 comprise a particular combination of element, which is neither taught nor suggest by the prior art.

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Applicant's independent method claim 13 recites, *inter alia*, selecting the first graphic to initiate a direct graph arrow originating from the first graphic, selecting the second graphic to draw a directed graph arrow from the first graphic to the second graphic representing a video call between the first and second video devices, determining if the video call between the first and second video devices is a valid action and prohibiting the drawing of a direct graph arrow between the first and second graphics unless the video call between the first and second video devices is a valid action. These steps, in combination of the remaining steps, are neither taught nor suggested by the prior art.

Accordingly, Applicant's claims are allowed for these reasons and the reasons recited in Amendment filed 11/6/2003, 3/24/2004 and 8/25/2004. In addition, it is noted that VTel Corp was split into two divisions on November 2003 including services division and hardware division, which the services division was renamed Forgent network Inc., according to a further Internet search. Thus, Stephens (US PAT. 6,633,324) fails to qualify as prior art against the present application because the present invention was assigned to Forgent Network Inc. and each of the inventors of the present application and Stephens were under a duty to assign inventions to Forgent network Inc. at the time the invention was made.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George Eng whose telephone number is 703-308-9555. The examiner can normally be reached on Tue-Fri 7:30 AM-6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Curtis A. Kuntz can be reached on 703-305-4708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



George Eng
Primary Examiner
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